

a 28-year sentence before his "early" release. Ngawang Sandrol, a member of the famous Tibetan "Singing Nuns" who was released last year, had served over 10 years in the infamous Drapchi Prison before her release. According to the Tibet Information Network, the State Department, and the testimony of former Tibetan nuns like Ngawang Sandrol, many of these prisoners have been severely beaten and subjected to other extreme forms of punishment. Some have died in prison.

The Chinese government has denied repeated requests, including from the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, for access to the 12-year-old boy whom the Dalai Lama recognizes as the 11th Panchen Lama. Government officials have stated that he is being "held for his own safety," while at the same time insisting that another boy is the true Panchen Lama.

The Chinese government's official ban on the Falun Gong movement, in 1999, has meant heightened government repression for all religious organizations designated by the government as "cults." According to Falun Gong practitioners, as many as 100,000 of their members have been sent to labor camps without trial. They claim that as many as 700 may have died as a result of police brutality either while in prison or after their release.

In largely Muslim Xinjiang, religious freedom is severely curtailed by the government, which indiscriminately links Muslim religious expression with "separatist" or "terrorist" acts. The indiscriminate repression of the Uighur people is best exemplified by the arrest and imprisonment of Rebiya Kadeer, a prominent Uighur businesswoman and activist, who was arrested in 1999 after she met with a visiting U.S. congressional delegation. Close supervision of all mosques in the region by local Communist Party officials is now commonplace.

China repeatedly engages in severe—systematic, egregious—violations of religious freedom. If our ideals and what America stands for—both at home and abroad—are to mean anything, then we must not shrink from this issue. We must not allow human considerations to come secondary to the pursuit of trade.

We must dare to speak out for those who have no voice.

THE SYSTEMATIC CORRUPTION OF THE ALIYEV DYNASTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon to address what I consider one of the largest potential factors for destabilization in the entire Caucas' region: The systematic corruption of the Aliyev Dynasty currently ruling Azerbaijan.

I have highlighted the problems with President Heydar Aliyev for years now, but his health has deteriorated recently, and that has put the future of Azerbaijan and the entire Caucas' region in doubt.

In July of this year, President Aliyev suffered what has been described by the Cleveland Medical Center, where he currently resides, as congestive heart

failure. Last month, his son Ilham was appointed as Prime Minister. This would seem only appropriate at first, unless you consider that a recent referendum forced through the electorate changed the line of succession from Speaker of the Parliament to Prime Minister. This was widely criticized at the time by domestic Azerbaijani opposition groups and the international community as a clear way for President Aliyev to set up a dynastic regime. Unfortunately, as President Aliyev has become incapacitated during his treatment, the predictions have come true. His son Ilham is now in direct line to take over the Presidency from his father.

The partnership, Mr. Speaker, of the father and the son is not only limited to the fact that Azerbaijan will be the first monarchy established in the former Soviet Union. A Financial Times article on September 13, 2003, clearly shows that power is not the only object of the Aliyevs' desire. Both were implicated in a court case that was unsealed in New York this week. The actual case had been filed against a Swiss banker by the name of Hans Bodmer. In the indictment, he allegedly conspired to facilitate the participation of foreign citizens in Azerbaijan's privatization process of the state-owned oil company, often referred to by its name, SOCAR, through improper payments made to Azerbaijani officials.

This would most likely not have come to light were it not for the fact that Heydar and Ilham Aliyev had never intended to privatize the oil company in the first place. Instead, they stole over \$100 million in the form of vouchers that were designed to give the purchaser disproportionate influence over the privatization process. All of this was alleged to have happened while Ilham Aliyev was the head of SOCAR, a position his father bestowed on him to apparently prepare him for his job as heir apparent of the country of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Speaker, this is a clear example of this administration's misguided policies when it comes to countries that are oil rich. The day that Ilham ascended to his post and forced the former Prime Minister from office, President Bush sent a letter of congratulations to him. This is clearly not in the interest of democracy that the President of the United States has touted lately in regards to the Middle East. How can this administration have separate distinctions about what is democracy and what is not?

It seems increasingly clear what the answer is. Those countries that have significant resources that are sent to western markets are allowed to be less Democratic than those that do not.

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Now, Mr. Speaker, I am also very concerned about what the Aliyev regime plans to do about the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

Heydar Aliyev was tantalizingly close to reaching a settlement with Armenian President Robert Kocharian in Key West in 2001, but those negotiations soon fell apart when Aliyev returned home. Since then, Aliyev and Kocharian have met many times, but resulted in no progress.

The Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe's Minsk Group, which is charged with moving the two parties towards peaceful settlement, has been increasingly frustrated with the process. Ilham has recently taken a much harder stance on the Karabakh issue than did his father, and this is of great concern to me.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Aliyev family is on their way to establishing the first dynastic regime in the former Soviet Union. Not only is this a concern for the entire Caucas' region but also other leaders in the former Soviet Union that must be watching the United States' reaction to this. The message that is sent is not positive. How can we be supportive of this?

Families in the Middle East that have controlled vast oil revenues have scarred the last century with wars and oppressive regimes. Members of the Bush administration know this better than anyone. The current Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, visited Iraq with a delegation in 1988. They met with Saddam Hussein and decided that the stability of his regime and oil revenue was more important than his lust for power, whatever the cost. We are now paying for that tragic mistake with the lives of our Nation's sons and daughters.

It is time for the administration to change its tune on the corrupt and oppressive Aliyev regime. Though stability may be the temporary result of the President's support, the end result could destabilize the entire region.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2658) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes."

LACK OF DIVERSITY IN COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY FACULTIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on two very different and unrelated topics, Mr. Speaker, but both are certainly of national importance.

First, almost every college and university in this country receives very